

The region continued to grow as 110 bungalow-type houses and another 125 homes were completed in 1913. In 1920, Palmerton was already home to a Red Cross Detachment, two banks, a four-year high school, and several churches. The Stephen S. Palmer Junior-Senior High School was opened in April 1925 for grades 7 through 12. The Palmerton Community Chest was formed and the first automatic telephones in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania were installed.

Although the coal and zinc mines that originally fueled the Borough's growth have long since closed, the 5400 residents of Palmerton Borough continue to thrive as they move toward the new millennium. Two major initiatives will help prepare the Borough for the 21st Century: the flood-control project at the Aquashicola Creek and the Brownfields initiative at Horsehead Industries' West Plant promoted by State Representative Keith McCall, county and borough officials, the local Chamber of Commerce, and myself.

Since my election to Congress in 1984, I have spent a great deal of time in Palmerton but one visit last year is especially prominent in my mind. The event was a re-dedication of the town swimming pool, which had been renovated after 50 years of use. I have been to many events like this one over my career, but I was struck by the optimism of the crowd. It seemed like the entire town had come out to note how they were committed to looking after the future needs of their community. It brought home to me the community spirit that is at the heart of Palmerton.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to congratulate Palmerton on its Centennial Anniversary. Knowing that Palmerton's best days are ahead of it, I send my sincere best wishes for continued growth and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO MS. GRETCHEN SNEEGAS, 1998 MIDWEST REGION YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR, FROM INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable young woman from Indianapolis, Indiana. I am proud to announce that Ms. Gretchen Sneegas, a sixth grader at New Augusta Middle School, will be honored today (April 30, 1998) as this year's Midwest Regional Youth Advocate of the Year by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Ms. Sneegas is one of six individual youth activists and one teen tobacco-control group to be honored by the CAMPAIGN in 1998.

The Youth Advocates of the Year Awards, now in their third year, were created to encourage tobacco control activism and leadership among the nation's youth.

Ms. Sneegas was nominated by Susan Chitwood, Community Development Director of the Indianapolis division of the American Cancer Society, for her dedication to tobacco control efforts from the state house to the school house. An aggressive advocate for change, Gretchen pushed for a state ban on cigarette vending machines, even going so far as to provide state lawmakers with photo-

graphic evidence of how easy it is for kids to buy cigarettes in this way. She has also learned how to reach out to her peers and motivate other young people to get involved in this fight. When Indiana's State Legislature overrode the Governor's veto of a bill that prevented local governments from restricting the sale of tobacco products, she mobilized young people from all across Indiana to stage a protest at the State Capitol.

The Youth Advocates of the Year Awards recognize that kids are not just part of the problem—they can be a powerful part of the solution.

This award is presented during the same week of Surgeon General David Satcher's timely report on *Tobacco Use Among U.S. Racial/Ethnic Minority Groups*. This report underscores the urgent need for comprehensive legislation to reduce youth smoking. According to this report, smoking rates among minority groups, particularly teens, are on the rise. In Indiana alone, 37.8 percent of High School kids currently smoke cigarettes, and 13.9 percent of High School kids use smokeless tobacco. The Center for Disease Control projects—of these Indiana teenagers who smoke—140,645 kids currently under the age of 18 will die prematurely from tobacco-related disease.

I thank the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids for selecting Ms. Sneegas. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S.—I applaud the CAMPAIGN for its dedication to providing opportunities encouraging youth to get involved in tobacco control activities in their communities and at the state and national levels.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to acknowledge and honor inspiring young individuals like Ms. Sneegas who have worked hard to keep America's kids tobacco-free. They are youth leaders who actively take a stand for and with other kids demanding tobacco-free lives and healthier futures—and they make a difference!

THE NATION'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw attention to an article that appeared in my home town newspaper, the Daily News Journal, on Sunday April 26, 1998, concerning the future of our nation's transportation system.

Mr. Kevin Backwell, Vice President, AAA Auto Club of the South, which has over 157,000 members in west and central Tennessee, makes a strong case for the need to invest in our country's infrastructure.

This bill is especially important to the future of Middle Tennessee, because of the rapid growth we have experienced over the past decade. As one of the fastest growing regions in the country, this bill invests in the future of Middle Tennessee by looking toward new, innovative transportation systems, such as the Middle Tennessee Commuter Rail.

This bill represents a strong commitment to the economic future and the quality of life of Middle Tennessee.

[From the Daily News Journal]

MAINTAINING HIGHWAYS IMPORTANT FOR NATION

To the editor,

The good news coming out of Washington in recent weeks is that Congress is finally addressing the concerns of America's motorists with the reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), and is prepared to make significant investments in the nation's transportation infrastructure.

However, it would seem that critics of this legislation have forgotten what it's like to drive on our nation's highways and bridges; to sit in long lines of congested traffic; dodge potholes; or to watch in frustration as the nation's economic backbone crumbles from a failure to properly maintain the system. Due to years of chronic underinvestment, according to federal government reports, one-third of all major roads in the United States are in "poor or mediocre condition" and a fourth of the 570,000 bridges in the country are either "structurally deficient or functionally obsolete."

ISTEA does not propose to pave over America. The great need—and primary goal of both the House and Senate bills—is to repair existing roads and bridges. Outmoded and poorly maintained roads and bridges cost lives and impair personal mobility. They also negatively impact productivity and economic activity. In a booming economy, there is no excuse to allow the continued deterioration of the very transportation system that sustains economic growth!

When a corporation makes capital investments in outmoded plants and equipment, we applaud its actions. Congress is now increasing capital investments in our badly deteriorated transportation infrastructure, and members who supported it are to be commended.

At first glance, the size of the increased investments in transportation funding appear large. We need to remember that they are spread out over the next six years. It is also important to remember that every penny proposed for surface transportation investment comes from revenues collected from motorists through the federal gasoline tax. We pay taxes at the gasoline pump to maintain our roads and bridges. We are asking that those tax dollars be invested as they were intended—not buried away in a trust fund to mask other federal spending practices.

As the conference committee negotiates the final details of the bill to send to the president, we urge our leaders to remain firm in their resolve. Investing in transportation is investing in America's future. It is investing in safety. It is the right priority for the 21st century.

KEVIN W. BAKEWELL, APR
Vice President, Public & Government Relations, AAA Auto Club South, Tampa, Fla.

SENSE OF CONGRESS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, almost sixty years ago, the most tragic event of the 20th